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Sent: Tuesday, November 09, 2010 11:45 AM
To: Isenberg, Phil@DeltaCouncil
Cc: Philip Pogledich; Petrea Marchand
Subject: DSC Early Action items - Yolo requests

Phil,

I wanted to amplify on some exchanges at last Friday's committee meeting on early actions as they pertain to a quest by Yolo County for priority status for exploration of a "Westside option" as a fish habitat measure in the Yolo Bypass.

The State and Federal Contractors Water Agency has no formal position on this option or formal guidance on decisions before your committee on Friday. Informally, many of us share a perspective identical to that articulated by Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza – that a refined project description and further analysis will be necessary to see if it meets a variety of habitat objectives.

As background, one of our members, the Metropolitan Water District, earlier this year provided limited funds for some technical assistance so that local stakeholders led by the Yolo Basin Foundation could put to paper this concept, materials that were included in your agenda packet. The latest draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan calls for a full evaluation of a Westside alternative, and we anticipate comments Yolo County on that draft description this week. At this stage, any effort to further articulate this alternative is consistent with BDCP. Eventually, it will have to be the BDCP process to settle on the alternative or range of alternatives for formal analysis. Our members hope to work within BDCP process as well as any concurrent efforts by Yolo County and key stakeholders to better describe this alternative. At present, for example, there is no connected water conveyance system on the west side, nor any specific proposal on how large such a conveyance system would be in order to transport flows to meet the fishery objectives. Yolo County's interest in refining this concept is helpful.

While BDCP calls for formally developing the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan after BDCP's formal adoption, we will continue to work with Yolo County and others on development of the plan specifics during the interim before BDCP is finalized. This plan calls for multiple possible modifications to the bypass, perhaps changes to both the Fremont and Sacramento weirs. The Plan is attempting to remain flexible in order to meet the necessary fishery restoration objectives in a manner that minimizes impacts to bypass agriculture and the existing Wildlife Area. I hope this additional background is helpful.

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